GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4354
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
HARMFUL EFFECTS OF AGRO CHEMICALS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the harmful effects of agro-chemicals are showing up and world over greater interest is being shown towards organic products;

(b) if so, whether in western countries, demand of organic produce is outstripping supplies and estimated market is already of about $ 10 billion (Rs.44000 crores);

(c) whether in view of environmental and health considerations the Government are considering to have National Commission on Organic Farming with sufficient funds; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the organic farming is proposed to be promoted?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The average consumption of plant nutrients in India through chemical fertilisers was about 95.00 kg/ha. during 1999-2000. This level of consumption is not considered excessive for causing adverse effects on soils/crops. However, the Government encourages Balanced and Integrated use of chemical fertilisers, organic manures and biofertilisers for achieving optimum results.

To safeguard against the possible harm due to use of chemical pesticides, Integrated Pest Management, practices are being popularised among the farmers. Further, the effective implementation of the Insecticides Act, 1968, ensures the import, manufacture, distribution, transportation and the use of pesticides, within safety limits to human beings, animals and the environment.

(b): The demand of organic farming is on increase. However, no specific assessment of worldwide demand about the organic food is available.

(c)&(d): No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to set up National Commission onOrganic Farming. However, the Government has set up a task Force on Organic Farming with following terms of reference:-

(i) Collection of information on Organic farming including experiments undertaken in this field by Government/Non-Government bodies, Voluntary Organisation, Farmers Groups, individual farmers, etc.;

(ii) Assessment and propogation of appropriate techniques/technology of organic farming;

(iii) Setting up of standards in connection with the organic farming.

(iv) To suggest short-term, medium term and long term measures for development and propagation of Organic Farming; and

(v) To suggest measures for the marketing of the Organic Farming Produce.